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REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are now pending in the application. The amendments to the claims contained herein are of equivalent scope as originally filed and, thus, are not a narrowing amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 11, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hengst (U.S. Pat. No. 6,005,299) in view of Ishiguro (U.S. Pat. No. 6,176,589). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claims 1 and 7, neither Hengst nor Ishiguro teaches or suggests "wherein at least one of said vehicle functions is an on/off function, and wherein said knob further comprises a switch for controlling said on/off function and said switch includes an indicator reflective of the state of said on/off function."

Specifically, unlike the Applicants' on/off switch 24, which is provided on the knob 12, Ishiguro's on/off switches 35 are provided in a rectangular opening 32c in the bezel 32 (column 5, lines 61-67; column 6, lines 1-7). Therefore, Claims 1 and 7 are now believed to be in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Without acceding to the correctness of the Examiner's remarks thereover, Claims 2-3 and 8-9 depend directly or indirectly from the independent Claims 1 and 7, respectively, and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above with respect to Claims 1 and 7.

Claims 5 and 11 are cancelled.

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With respect to Claim 13, neither Hengst nor Ishiguro teaches or suggests "providing an on/off switch on said knob; providing an indicator on said on/off switch; controlling at least one of said functions using said on/off switch; and indicating the state of said one of said functions using said indicator." Therefore, Claim 13 is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 4 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hengst (U.S. Pat. No. 6,005,299) in view of Ishiguro (U.S. Pat. No. 6,176,589) and Bollgohn et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,769,320). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without acceding to the correctness of the Examiner's remarks thereover, Claims 4 and 8 depend directly or indirectly from the independent Claims 1 and 7, respectively, and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above with respect to Claims 1 and 7.

Claims 6 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hengst (U.S. Pat. No. 6,005,299) in view of Ishiguro (U.S. Pat. No. 6,176,589) and Goldenberg et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,636,197). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Without acceding to the correctness of the Examiner's remarks thereover, Claims 6 and 12 depend directly or indirectly from the independent Claims 1 and 7, respectively, and are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above with respect to Claims 1 and 7.

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It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: August 7, 2007By: Gordon K. Harris, Jr.
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